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Voluntary Public

Date: 6/25/2014

GAIN Report Number: TR4020

Turkey

Post: Ankara

Geographical Indicators recognized by Turkey

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Market Promotion/Competition

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Report Highlights:

Turkey has registered 176 Geographical Indicators since 1995, of which most are agricultural and food products produced in Turkey, along with a handful of foreign products that are or could be marketed in Turkey. This report details the application process and necessary information for geographical indicators in Turkey, and provides a link to the current list of registered geographical indicators recognized by the Government of Turkey.

General Information:

Turkey's Geographical Indicators

Turkey, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), and in compliance with its obligations under the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, enacted Decree-Law No. 555 Pertaining to the Protection of Geographical Signs which took effect on June 27, 1995. Several articles were amended or added by Law No. 4128 on November 7, 1995.

The law is divided into four parts which are outlined below:

1. General Provisions
2. Scope of Protection and Usage
3. Invalidity of Geographical Signs and Termination of the Protection Period
4. Infringement of Geographical Sign and Procedures for Infringement

Since the first Turkish Geographical Indicator (GI) was registered in 1995, 176 GIs have been registered with the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI). The TPI is affiliated with the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. Of the 176 GIs registered, most of them are related to agriculture and manufactured food & beverage products such as tea, liqueurs, cheese, nuts, figs, grapes, olives and traditional meat dishes. Other GIs that are registered, but not related to agriculture, include carpets, tiles, dolls, copper products and native dog breeds. Some foreign products have received GI status under the law including Scotch Whiskey and Parma Ham. However, most products given GI status in Turkey are Turkish products.

A complete list of registered GIs to date can be found at the following link:

http://www.tpe.gov.tr/portal/default_en.jsp?sayfa=172. (Most of the product names on the list are in Turkish.)

Application Process

Articles 7-13 of the law outline the application process for registering a geographical indicator. Article 8, Application Procedures, is copied below:

Article 8 - An application for the registration of a geographical sign must be filed with the following:

- a) A petition for registration including information identifying the applicant, and information concerning the applicant's group as specified in Article 7,
- b) The name of the product and the designation of origin or the geographical indication to be registered,
- c) The description of the product; technical information and documents explaining the physical, chemical, micro biological and similar characteristics of the product and if necessary of the raw material,

- d) The definition of the geographical area, information and the documents clearly indicating the geographical boundaries,
- e) Production techniques of the product and if relevant the authentic and specific local techniques and conditions,
- f) Evidence that the product is in compliance with the provisions of Article 3 in respect of the sign requested for registration,
- g) information detailing the inspection structure provided for in Article 20,
- h) information detailing the labeling, marking and means of using the registered designation of origin or geographical indication,
- i) evidence that the application fee has been paid,
- j) other particulars as specified in the Implementing Regulations.

END ARTICLE.

Applications will be examined for credibility, compliance and deficiencies. If the application is approved, the geographical indicator will be published and listed in the Geographical Indicator Registry. All applications will be subject to a fee.

For more information and the complete text of Decree-Law No. 555, please visit the following link: http://www.tpe.gov.tr/portal/default_en.jsp?sayfa=174. The Geographical Indicators Decree Law and Geographical Indicators Regulations are available in the above link (both in English).